

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0046] The trencher of the present invention includes a wheeled carriage which has
5 a steering mechanism and a digging chain which operates along an upright path.

The trencher includes an upright boom structure that is mounted to the carriage and
a digging chain support frame that can be raised and lowered relative to the trencher
carriage along an upright path. The digging chain is mounted to the digging chain
support frame by a powered sprocket wheel and a freely turning pulley wheel. The
10 sprocket wheel the pulley wheel are positioned so that the digging chain describes
an upright path. The path described by the digging chain is sufficiently upright so
that the trencher can excavate a curved trench without the digging chain interfering
with the walls of the trench to a degree that is sufficient to impede the operation of
the trencher.